

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, JULY 17, 2009.

The City Council of the City of Leon Valley, Texas, met on the 17th day of July 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Leon Valley City Council Chambers, at 6400 El Verde Road, Leon Valley, Texas, for the purpose of the following business, to-wit:

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING - 9:30 A.M.

Call to Order.

Mayor Riley called the Special City Council Workshop Meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and asked that the minutes reflect the following members of Council were present: Garcia, Baldrige, and Dean.

City Manager Lambert, City Secretary Feutz, Community Development Director Flores, Fire Chief Irwin, and Grant Writer Word were also present.

Due to the small number of people present, Mayor Riley invited everyone to move to the Conference Room for the meeting.

Discussion on Bandera Road Vision Plan with TxDOT District Engineer Mario Medina, P.E..

Mayor Riley welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that the City would like to partner with TxDOT to improve the appearances of Bandera Road.

City Manager Lambert explained that the City would like to beautify Bandera Road, which is seen as the City's front door. He reported that, in the past, the City has been told that if we build in the right of way, we take the chance of TxDOT destroying the work at some later date. He explained that several years ago, a landscape plan was done for Bandera Road for the City by architects Bender, Clark, and Wells. Mr. Lambert stated that the City would like to incorporate landscaping from the base of the elevated Loop 410 access ramps to Seneca to put in irrigation, an entryway structure, and landscaping down the middle of Bandera Road. He described an entryway structure that could be a landmark with an 8-foot concrete structure. The City Manager asked for TxDOT's permission to allow Leon Valley to begin this beautification project and ask about availability of any financial assistance from TxDOT.

Mr. Medina stated that he did not have a problem with Leon Valley's plans and that TxDOT would work with Leon Valley as long as Leon Valley understands that sometime in the future TxDOT may come in the future for future road improvements and remove any monuments and landscaping. He stated that Leon Valley could really help with minimizing the number of curb cuts that will help operationally to move traffic. He stated that TxDOT does not have any funding available to help the City with their project now, but TxDOT would be willing to help the City if there is a call for enhancement program applications, noting that those programs are not funded at this time. He stated that he was OK with this first block proposal and for the development of plan to be addressed in the future. Mr. Medina suggested that something could be hung from the columns from the flyovers and offered to have the TxDOT landscape architect work with the City for a sustainable plan, but he would need a municipal agreement that Leon Valley will maintain those improvements. Mr. Medina recommended that the agreement include the area from Seneca to the City limits and then as the City wishes to do the next phase, a new agreement or an amending agreement would be brought forward for consideration.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, JULY 17, 2009.

Mr. Medina reviewed how the TxDOT funding process works with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He provided a brief description of "Proc. 12 Bonds" and State infrastructure bank loans. He agreed to check the rules on how one gets access or competes for those loan moneys and send an answer back to the Mayor. He stated that a new transportation bill is expected from the feds in the near future. He stated that he will propose a workshop with MPO members of funding options for transportation projects and again reiterated that TxDOT has no funding for mobility projects for the foreseeable future.

In response to a request for funding from TxDOT to cover drainage ditches along Bandera Road, Mr. Medina stated that unless TxDOT is adding more capacity to the road or fixing safety issues, he doesn't see funding being available. When asked if TxDOT funding could be available in closing some driveways along Bandera Road, Mr. Medina stated that if when studied, the closures would benefit TxDOT's goals and would increase mobility, it could be considered.

Councilman Art Reyna joined the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Mr. Medina clarified that if a full Bandera Road corridor project is being considered, an environmental impact study (EIS) would have to be done, but for a project like the landscaping project, no EIS would be required. He also noted that there is no funding for any EIS and ARMA still has control over this corridor and TxDOT always keeps the communication connection open with ARMA.

Councilmembers asked about completion of the current Loop 410 project to replace street signs. Mr. Medina stated that he will contact his staff and contractor on that issue.

Mr. Medina informed the Mayor that the MPO will be working on the 20-year transportation plan for the area in the upcoming months and some very hard decisions would be made. Mr. Lambert informed Mr. Medina that the City discovered from his predecessor that Leon Valley had been removed from the long-range MPO plan in the past and the City intended to get back on the long range transportation plan for the future. Mr. Medina informed the group that the only funding that could be counted on for transportation improvements in the MPO's 20-year plan were toll road revenue and Federal and State gasoline taxes. He added that anything in the plan can be worked on if the project is already in the long-range plan, even if there is no funding. Mayor Riley proposed that mass transportation will also add capacity.

Mr. Medina stated that TxDOT's landscape architect will work on safety considerations, clear distances, existing curbs, and landscaping that will not only be drought tolerant, but traffic tolerant, and vegetation that will establish its own ecosystem. He stated that he would ask "Chris" to meet with the City on the landscaping project, but the irrigation plan will be Leon Valley's plan, not TxDOT's. He emphasized that the maintenance of the landscaping project must be agreed to by the City.

Halff and Associates' representative stated that they will want to be involved with the area project as part of the redevelopment project for the City.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, JULY 17, 2009.

Councilman Garcia asked if TxDOT had any objections to decorative lighting on Bandera Road from Seneca to the flyover lanes. Mr. Medina stated that decorative lighting could possibly be considered to hang on the sides, on the edge of the right-of-way, but he didn't think it would add to the illumination.

In response to Council's request for synchronization of traffic signals for all of S.H. 16 from San Antonio through Leon Valley, Mr. Medina stated that he would look into funding availability to upgrade traffic signals and then turn them over to the City of San Antonio and pay them to maintain them. He also warned the City that the traffic signals at the intersection of Huebner Road and Bandera will have to be retimed once school starts.

When Council asked about lighting under the flyover for safety of pedestrians at turn arounds and especially at the Wurzbach Road intersection, Mr. Medina stated that there is some illumination, and the lighting is primarily safety lighting, but he would look at the issue.

Mr. Medina explained the TxDOT process for addressing graffiti issues and how they prioritize abating graffiti with hardscape graffiti being the last to be addressed after addressing at grade and overhead street signs.

Mr. Medina summarized the information he heard from Leon Valley:

1. TxDOT landscape architect would be asked to meet with the City of Leon Valley to work with the City in starting to develop a scheme and concept for the area along Bandera Road from Seneca Drive to the City limits;
2. TxDot would relay any possible information on urban thoroughfare- stormwater funding programs in response to questions by the Mayor;
3. Mr. Medina will insure that the City received an update on the current Loop 410/SH 16 construction project;
4. Mr. Medina will look into the progress of missing street signs from construction work along S.H. 16;
5. Mr. Medina will keep Leon Valley in mind as any information in the future becomes available for Prop12 bond and/or street infrastructure bond funding availability for S.H. 16 projects;
6. An agreement must be developed for landscaping and monument placement and maintenance by Leon Valley for the Seneca to the City limits area on Bandera Road;
7. Mr. Medina will look into issues of lighting under the flyover for safety and decorative lighting options;
8. Placement of any art displays or other static displays or objects placed under the flyover and set up by Leon Valley must be reviewed for safety issues by TxDOT; and

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LEON VALLEY, TEXAS, JULY 17, 2009.**

9. The City would look into curb cut reduction as part of their overlay project and bring the information to TxDOT.

Adjourn.

Hearing no further comments and after thanking Mr. Medina for his help and answers, a motion was made by Councilmember Dean, and seconded by Councilmember Garcia, to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Riley announced the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Chris Riley _____
Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie Feutz _____
City Secretary

Approved by unanimous vote of City Council at the Regular City Council Meeting of Aug. 4, 2009.